

The Lemon Grove REVIEW

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Vol. 49, No. 18

Serving Lemon Grove and nearby communities

Thursday, October 24, 1996 25¢

Halloween has become an increasingly commercialized holiday, with an emphasis on dressing in costume and going to parties. It was not always this way.

All Hallow's Eve, the night before "All Saint's Day," has been for centuries a night of power, when the portal that separates our world from the Other is open widest. It has been a time to contemplate death and emerge seeing life in a new light.

We asked our regular Forum Publications writers to tell us about their brushes with death. Some said they have never been close to dying. Little did they know that death is always nearby, stalking each of us, just out of view beyond the left shoulder ... if we dare glance back to see.

SUSANNE RIDDLE-HASLINGER

It was a dark and stormy night (yes, really, it was!) I was 16, and had just recently received my driver's license and my parent's permission to take the family car to the public library. I picked up my best friend and, to keep ourselves honest, made an appearance at the library before leaving to do some serious car-cruising along the avenues, a popular and then-legal pastime of teenagers in the '60s.

We pulled in and out of local drive-in eateries, just exactly like in the movies with car-hops and everything, and had the car radio blasting tunes of Dion, Ike and Tina Turner (they were still a couple then) and Martha and the Vandellas and having a great time when the rains began.

Midwestern rainstorms appear out of nowhere and, along with torrential downpours, come with a blast of thunder and lightning that seem like the wrath of the heavens.

We should have gone home, but we decided to give the town one more go around, just to see if we could wave at kids we would be seeing in school the next day. By now, the rains were so heavy, it was getting difficult to see and when I approached a set of several railroad tracks, (without signal lights) I discovered I could not hear either.

Using extreme caution, I sat before the tracks with the windows down, trying to see or hear any indication of an oncoming train. Rather than darting out at full speed, I thought the best thing to do was to slowly creep across the tracks. I was scouting one side and my best friend was looking out the other side. I heard a scream come out of her that movie producers would pay good money for even today.

When I turned to look in her direction, I saw the most brilliant, white light casting eerie shadows through the pouring rain and then I heard the sound of a blaring horn. A



DEATH COMES STALKING

train was thundering only yards away from my car.

I stepped on the gas pedal and the car sputtered and died. Frantically turning the key to start the car again, I looked and saw two men hanging out of windows on each side of the train, waving their arms and mouthing something, most likely screams of terror at what they were about to witness and experience.

In what seemed like slow motion, I managed to get the car started. I stepped on the gas pedal and moved forward. The car died once more, coasting just beyond the far side of the tracks. The force of the passing train heaved the car several feet and I somehow steered it to the side of the road where my best friend and I sat in silent shock for a very long time. Only split seconds (and maybe a shove from omnipresent angels) prevented my best friend and me from sharing a cloud for eternity.

The almost-deadly experience changed both of us completely. My best friend did not get her driver's license until her mid-20s. I still hate to drive in extreme rainstorms (I love you San Diego) and I treat railroad crossings with the utmost respect.

Now all I need to do is prepare my mom for one of those stories many of us wait for decades to tell our parents, but at least, I am here to talk about it!

BETTY JO TUCKER

Where am I? Everything is so dim and blurry. I can hardly breathe. I feel my throat closing, getting smaller and smaller. Why is there so much blood all over? It's on the covers, the bed, the floor. I must be in my own bed, but it feels so strange.

Where is everyone? Mother was here when we came home from the big building where the doctor took out my tonsils. She tucked me in. And Grandma brought me some ice cream. It felt so good on my sore throat.

I hear their voices. They must be in the kitchen. If only I could call out for help.

Please, please, dear God, make them come to me. Maybe I can get to the kitchen. I'll just sit up and — oh, no, it hurts too much to move my head. Can I reach that glass on the night stand? If I drop it hard on the floor, they might hear me. It seems so far away, but if I roll over on my side and scoot closer, maybe I — wait — they're coming in the room. Thank you, God!

Mother is putting her cool hand on my forehead and Grandma is holding my

hand. But who is this other lady? No, please, lady, don't touch me with that metal thing! Mother! Grandma! Don't let her hurt me. I promise I'll be good. I'll never eat all the homemade fudge again.

Too late. She's sitting on the bed now. She's forcing my mouth open. She's putting that funny metal thing down my throat. I can't tell her to stop. I can't cry out.

She's digging deeper and deeper. I want her to stop. Why won't they make her stop? What is she doing now? Is she cutting something? I'll just close my eyes tighter.

I think the metal thing is coming out. I can feel it. Yes, it's out! My throat feels wider. I can swallow. I can breathe.

What did this lady do to me? I can hear Mother and Grandma talking to her, but their voices are so low. What are they saying?

The lady is using great big words, like "hemor-something." She is telling them I almost died. Mother is crying and Grandma is thanking her for saving my life.

Golly! I do feel much better. I think I can talk now. Betcha I can even shout. Here goes: "Hey, Mom. How 'bout some more of that chocolate ice cream?"

A few years later, I was told that a so-called routine tonsillectomy resulted in a not-so-routine hemorrhage that was nearly fatal. Fortunately, a very competent nurse was willing to make a middle-of-the-night emergency visit. God bless all the modern Florence Nightingales who help frightened youngsters live through some pretty scary moments.

MISTIE SHAW

The night was brisk and clear. The San Diego stars had multiplied in the canopy over Pine Valley where the ladies from our church were having a retreat. We needed a few more comforts from home, so after the evening speaker had finished, I decided to make a quick run to town.

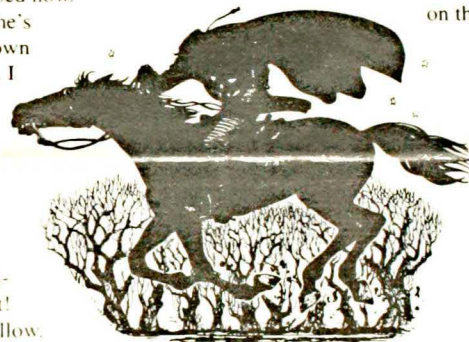
Sisters. Forging new friendships. Reaching out to bridge the gaps between our busy lives. It sounded so great but not one of the women I'd asked to join me for the drive had decided to come along. Pouting for the few seconds it took to back the car out of the parking place, I heard a gentle voice inside of me saying "Aren't I enough company?"

Realizing that the God of my faith was truly with me, my heart began a song that my lips could hardly contain. One song led

to another as I remembered and sang all the rousing choruses of my childhood in church. With the heater blasting and the cruise control set for about 65 mph, my full-sized Ford conversion van felt more like a warm cocoon than a missile hurtling down the mountains.

As I approached Alpine, a movement — perhaps a twinkling light — off to the left caught my eye. A momentary glance revealed nothing out of the ordinary. But, as I turned my head back to the front, I saw only a grotesque head, foaming mouth and frightened eyes wide open at my eye level. Instantly everything went black.

Some part of me realized that although I could not see, the van was still speeding through the night and I began to cautiously apply the brakes. My memory frantically searched for the last picture of the road: straight for a while ending in a curve, a guard rail on the right, a sloping, brush-covered median on the left.



Each second seemed an eternity as I weighed the possibilities. Too sharp a turn onto the median could start me rolling. Too fast a stop could result in a spin. Too long before stopping or turning could end in hitting something I could not see. I realized that with the impact of whatever I'd hit, one of the two fuel tanks could be leaking and an explosion was possible. Finally the van came to a halt. My left hand reached for the door handle at the same time that my right hand pushed the seat belt button and grabbed my purse in the same movement.

I jumped to the ground and dashed several yards away then leaped into the air while a shout burst from my lips simultaneously. My vision slowly returned as my eyes adjusted to the darkness and I wiped broken glass from them. A car was approaching and I tried to flag it down. As they continued down the road without even slowing, I felt a kinship with the Bible story man who had been beaten and left to die. I prayed for a Samaritan. The next car stopped briefly, the driver told me that a black-and-white police car was headed my way. He was reluctant to wait because he'd been drinking.

I watched a car slowly coming down the hill, shining its spotlight all around as it searched for a missing horse. Shivering from the cool night air and shock I began walking towards the car.

The van was totalled. So was the horse. I returned to the retreat later that night grateful that my only rider had been a spirit. The front passenger side was demolished. The fire department and police (everyone that saw the van) said it was a miracle I'd walked away. I believe it.



M is for Mayor

Personal comments of Mayor Mary Sessom

Don't mess with Lemon Grove

I notice quite a few slogans on bumper stickers, signs, etc., as I drive or walk around Lemon Grove. Two slogans in particular stand out that, with a few modifications, can be made to fit this city.

My heritage through my father comes from Texas. Texas is a state that takes pride in its size and history. It is also proud of its wide-open spaces whose beauty lies in clean skies, clean streams and clean highways. It is from this pride that the slogan "Don't Mess With Texas" comes. What if we in Lemon Grove took the same sort of pride. The graffiti concern has been tackled. Trees and landscaping are planned in vacant areas. But a major eyesore that detracts from this City's beauty appears every Friday and doesn't disappear until Wednesday. I am referring to the yard sale signs tacked to utility poles (an illegal act). Drive the main streets of the city this weekend and watch for the hand-painted, cardboard yard sale signs. I think you'll agree that a "Don't Mess With Lemon Grove" campaign would be helpful.

I can see this City embarking on a "Buy Lemon Grove" program. The ads urging us to buy goods made in the USA have helped our domestic businesses. Lemon Grove doesn't have many manufacturers of consumer goods but we do have a large variety of retail stores. These stores range from bakery shops to small hardware store to service providers such as barbershops and optometrists. This city should have the benefit of its resident's spending habits. A prosperous business sector is vital to the health of every city. Lemon Grove is no exception.

The next time you have an inclination to give something back to your city remember to "Buy Lemon Grove" and in all cases "Don't Mess With Lemon Grove."

Sheriff's Log

Aug. 26-28, 1996

7300 blk. Broadway. Grand theft. \$1,165 value.

Sept. 7, 1996

2900 blk. Massachusetts Ave. Residential burglary. \$1,850 value.

Sept. 20, 1996

Washington Ave. and Roy. Vehicle Burglary. \$355 value.

Sept. 23 - Oct. 1, 1996

3700 blk. Costa Bella St. Petty theft. \$299 value.

Oct. 5, 1996

7300 blk. Broadway. Commercial burglary. \$650 value.

8000 blk. Broadway. Vehicle Burglary. \$270 value.

Oct. 5-8, 1996

7500 blk. Roosevelt Ave. Petty theft. \$330 value.

Oct. 6, 1996

2500 blk. Mulder Ave. Vehicle Burglary. \$45 value.

Oct. 8, 1996

7500 blk. Broadway. Grand theft. \$685 value.

Oct. 9, 1996

3200 blk. Lemon Grove Ave. Commercial burglary. \$134 value.

Oct. 10, 1996

7000 blk. Broadway. Auto theft. \$4,000 value.

3200 blk. Lemon Grove Ave. Residential burglary. \$380 value.

WEATHER

The following information was provided by the National Weather Service.

		High	Low
Oct.	16	72	61
Oct.	17	76	60
Oct.	18	76	54
Oct.	19	67	55
Oct.	20	71	52
Oct.	21	80	49
Oct.	22	78	46

The Lemon Grove Review

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All materials must be received by the Monday preceding the date of publication. The editor reserves the right to edit all submissions.

Advertising

All advertising is subject to current rate card. The publisher reserves the right to reject an advertiser's order.

Only publication of an advertisement shall constitute final acceptance.

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Letters to the Editor

Lettieri-McIntyre has done a fine job

I was disappointed and dismayed at the quotation I read attributed to Council Member Craig Lake in "Consultants Get 18K Finish Plan Update" [Oct. 17 issue] for at least two reasons:

First, as a member of the General Plan Advisory Committee (GPAC), I can attest to the fine job that Lettieri-McIntyre & Associates, Inc. has done for our city. I, along with my fellow GPAC members, have worked diligently alongside the folks at Lettieri-McIntyre for nearly two years now. At the outset, we scheduled our plan update to be adopted in April 1996 by the City Council. Additional meetings, public hearings and unforeseen zoning amendments, however, delayed adoption until Oct. 22. We do not expect our consultants to work free. The funds paid to Lettieri-McIntyre were an investment in the future of Lemon Grove and money well spent.

Second, his statement, "The public is pissed off to have paid the consultants so much already, just to have their property values lowered..." is both inappropriate and misleading. I would have hoped that the vocabulary of one of our public officials would be broad enough to allow him to choose the word "angry" rather than "pissed off" to express himself, especially when making public pronouncements that are likely to end up in print. Nevertheless, putting Mr. Lake's offensive word choice aside, I think his statement is deceptive. The people of plan, with the assistance and guidance of Lettieri-McIntyre, through written surveys, town meetings and extensive public hearings. In fact, a diverse group of Lemon Grovers composes the GPAC itself, representing all ages, genders, races and occupations. It is simply disingenuous for Mr. Lake to exclaim that the public is angry with a Plan that the people created. Sadly, the origin of Mr. Lake's comment derive, in large part, not from reality, but from a vocal minority who has appeared at recent public hearings and denounced the Plan out of pecuniary self-interest, not public welfare.

DOUGLAS KERNER
Lemon Grove

Community Notes

Bloodmobile at St. John of the Cross

On Sunday from 8 a.m. - noon the 101 KGB Halloween Blood Drive with the San Diego Blood Bank will be joined by the "KNSD Bloodmobile" in the parking lot of Saint John of the Cross Catholic Church for a blood drive sponsored by the Knights of Columbus, 8086 Broadway, Lemon Grove.

All donors at this drive will be recognized with a specially designed San Diego Blood Bank T-shirt, and may enter a drawing for KISS Concert tickets. Each donor will also receive a medical history review and mini-physical which includes blood pressure, pulse, temperature and iron level checks.

The process of donating blood takes only about one hour. Anyone in good health between the ages of 17 and 69 may be eligible to give blood if they weigh at least 110 pounds. A good meal is recommended prior to donation.

The San Diego Blood Bank supplies the 33 hospitals in the San Diego, Imperial and Southern Riverside County area. It was established as an independent, non-profit organization in 1950 through the support of the San Diego County Medical Society.

For more information on any blood drive, or having the "KNSD Bloodmobile" stop in your area, please call the San Diego Blood Bank at 296-6393.

\$2 flu shots featured at open house

To kick off Health 'n' Home's open house celebration, prize drawings, refreshments and \$2 flu shots will be offered to the public on Thursday and Friday from 10 a.m. until 6 p.m. at the Sav-on Drug Store in the Town & Country Shopping Center at the corner of Fletcher Parkway and Navajo.

Health 'n' Home is offering the low-cost immunizations to introduce area residents to their new concept in home healthcare. Neighborhood centers provide increased access to products, professional services and education in the home health environment. In addition to up-to-date information sources, the new center will supply mobility and sports therapy products, wheel and lift chairs, oxygen and respiratory products, diabetic/nutritional supplies and pharmaceuticals.

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Worship: 9 a.m. Sunday School 10:30 a.m.

Nader bolsters local Green Party effort

by Greg Eichelberger

Appearing a bit tired, and looking all of like the man who has spent a great deal of his life fighting for causes that touch most Americans, longtime consumer advocate, author and current presidential candidate (Green Party) Ralph Nader paid a visit to East County environmental activists Dan and Susan Wolfe-Tarr, last week.

But despite his outward demeanor at a press conference at the Hotel del Coronado, Nader's mind was a sharp as a tack as he articulated his goal of attempting to establish citizen candidacies to a skeptical Southern California populace.

And although a progressive on domestic affairs, he had little good to say about the current occupant of the Oval Office, almost comparing him to a Judas Iscariot, who has sacrificed what principals he had on the altar of public opinion.

"Clinton deserves to lose," he said. "A great many people feel they have no choice. They don't want what the Republicans represent, with huge cuts to basic services, and they certainly have no love for Clinton, who heads a corporate Democratic Party, which has lost its working family moorings, and is in a pall-mall race with the G.O.P. to see who can do more favors for corporations, especially global concerns."

And just to show how labels are becoming more and more irrelevant, the liberal Nader praised Herbert Hoover, of all people, for first advocating the notion that radio (a new technology at the time) should be non-profit, prohibit all advertising, and further the public trust. If

radio and television had adhered to that advice in its infancy, the perpetual two-party system, fueled by advertising which, in

paings. "He has certainly reinvigorated the local activists to go out and work even harder for the cause."



Ralph Nader (center) confers with Dan and Susan Wolfe-Tarr about Green politics.

Photo by Greg Eichelberger

turn, is fueled by money, may not be in existence today.

Nader's run at for the White House, though, is not your typical race. He takes no contributions, nor will he accept any government largess, preferring to head a real grass-roots effort, designed to give ordinary citizens the opportunity to take matters into their own hands.

Nader's goal of producing more self-reliant citizens who organize their own epicenters in their neighborhoods and workplaces appeals to Wolfe-Tarr, who, as a prime mover in Green politics, helped get the fledgling party on the California ballot in 1992.

"It was a wonderful experience spending the day with him," said the longtime East County resident, who has served on the Valle de Oro Planning Group and carried the Green banner in several local elections, including the 1992 county supervisor's race, and the '92 and '94 Grossmont Union High School District cam-

That cause being a progressive platform of ecological protection, economic and personal responsibility, and social justice for all.

Like Nader, the Tarrs feel that it's important for a third party not to be just a flash in the pan, but to build an enduring political movement from the ground up.

"Thinking galactically and acting locally is the key," she said. "We need to work in our own backyards before we can hope to bring about the necessary change needed to govern this nation."

Nader bemoaned the fact that people who don't vote are often called "apathetic", and while some may be, he firmly believes that a great deal of them have nowhere else to turn, and therefore stay home as their only method of protest.

"This campaign is not about winning in November," he said. "It's about building for the future, broadening the agenda to focus on the grip that global corporations have on our economy institutions. This generation has turned off politics, which insures, for the present, at least, that politics will turn on them."

Kiwanis apple days set

It's Kiwanis Apple Days again in East County. The Kiwanis will be selling Delicious apples at bargain prices from 9 a.m. - 6 p.m. today through Sunday.

Prices remain at last year's level: \$25 for a box of 100 apples; \$13 for a box of 50 and \$7 for a box of 25.

The apple car will be at its usual place on Broadway in the parking lot of the GTM market.

"We're delighted to be back at our usual stand to offer these

wonderful Delicious apples to the public," said Dell Lake, chairman of the event. "Every Kiwanis member will be helping on this project, which is a big one. We use the proceeds to fund our scholarship for our Lemon Grove youth."

He pointed out that the apples will last indefinitely if each one is wrapped in newspaper. If they are put in the vegetable bin in the refrigerator their juiciness will be prolonged as well.

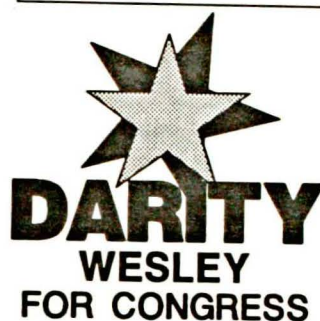


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Career politician, Duncan Hunter has been in Congress 16 years and is on record voting in opposition to nearly everything on this list.

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- Veterans Benefits
- NAFTA

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- Campaign Finance Reform
- Freedom of Choice
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Voters who live in Imperial County or East San Diego County may learn more of Candidate for Congress, Darity Wesley at her website: <http://www.jetplanes.com/darity.htm>. E-mail to her at: darityw@aol.com. Offices: 7995 University Ave., La Mesa: 462-1137 690 Broadway, Suite 4, El Centro: 353-4259

Paid for by Darity Wesley for Congress

Photo by George J. Decker



Youth agency bowl-a-thon set

Knock down some ninepins for the youth of San Diego! Everyone is invited to San Diego Youth Involvement's fundraiser Bowl-a-thon from 3 to 5:30 p.m. on Nov. 3 at the Grove Bowling Center in Lemon Grove.

Participants will be able to bowl three games for a registration fee of \$10 per person, which includes bowling shoe rental and an event t-shirt. Each bowler is encouraged to gather at least 10 sponsors at \$5 each.

Prizes will be awarded to individual bowlers based on the total amount of funds raised. These prizes include dinners for two at a variety of restaurants such as Applebee's, department store gift certificates, coupons for See's Candy and a stereo/radio system. There will also be a raffle on the day of the event.

Based in Lemon Grove, San Diego Youth Involvement is a non-profit social service organization that has been providing opportunities to young people in San Diego for 23 years.

"We're a resource to our community," says Executive Director Hura D. Murphy. "We've been able to get kids jobs, help kids resolve problems in school, and advocate for kids in court. We've been able to help families."

Murphy says that the money raised by this event will go

towards SDYI's 10 valuable programs, including Freedom House, a transitional living program for homeless and runaway teens, and New Realities, an expanding job training program for 15- to 19-year-olds.

San Diego Youth Involvement's newest program, One Stop, will be opening in Lemon Grove in January of 1997.

For more information and sponsor sheets for the Bowl-A-Thon, call Sheila Kramer or Brenda Thompson at 463-7800.

Deadline for scholarship set

High school students who are U.S. citizens and have a grade-point average of B or better are eligible for a \$1,000 college scholarship.

To receive an application, send a request by Dec. 15 to the Educational Communications Scholarship Foundation at 721 North McKinley Rd., P.O. Box 5012, Lake Forest, Ill. 60045-5012; fax a request to (847) 295-3972; or e-mail a request to "scholar@ecilf.com".

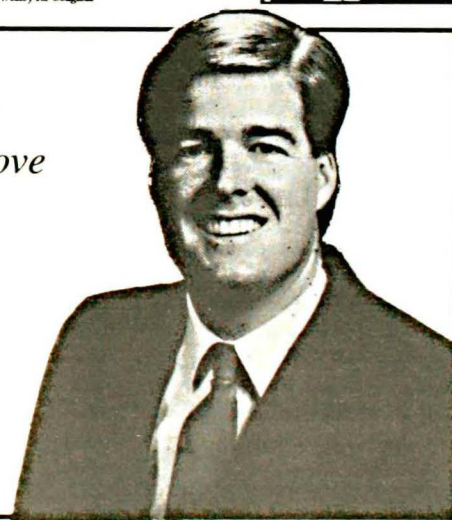
All requests must include the student's name, home address, city, state, zip code, name of high school, approximate GPA and year in school during the 1996-1997 academic year.

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| 5# BEEF RIBS | 2# SALAMI |
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| 15# END CUT PORK CHOPS | |

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| 20# CHUCK ROAST | 4# BOLOGNA |
| 25# GROUND BEEF | 3# SALAMI |
| 25# FRYER CHICKENS | 5# BACON |
| 5# BBQ STEAK | 10# BEEF RIBS |
| 20# END CUT PORK CHOPS | |

Commentary Propositions

by Paul Treske

I have never been happy with either the concept or the reality of the California ballot initiative system. Once presented and praised as an exercise in direct democratic citizen participation in government, it has become the happy stomping ground of special interest groups and politicians leery of the legislative process.

This year's group of daisies is right in keeping with many of its most cynical and befuddling predecessors. To be sure, there are a few that are exactly what they seem and are worthy of our support. Prop. A, which calls for a one-quarter cent tax increase for the improvement of the county's libraries, is most needed and, in a society not obsessed with taxes, would probably pass easily. Unfortunately, so irate is the general public on this subject, that Prop. A's outcome is highly dubious.

But some of the others are wondrous examples of why the initiative system ought to be either abolished or significantly altered. Take Pete Wilson's favorite, Prop. 209. As stated, it is enough to make one bring out the flag and sing the National Anthem. "Prohibition Against Discrimination or Preferential Treatment by State and Other Public Entities." What could be more American? But we really know this is a blatant effort to dump affirmative action, whose purpose was to even-up the opportunity playing field, by those who, in reality, would like to return to forms of discrimination against women and other minorities. It does, as Colin Powell has stated, "Pose as an equal opportunities initiative but which puts at risk every outreach program, sets back the gains made by women and puts the brakes on expanding opportunities for people in need."

There are others of course. Prop. 211 is a classic

of both misunderstanding and non-understanding. On the surface, it appears to be a form of citizen protection which allows class-action and other lawsuits in cases of fraudulent action such as savings and loan defection. But, from the multi-million dollar campaign against it you would never know that. Instead, we have had "frivolous lawsuits" and "East Coast lawyers" drilled into our brains until we are finally forced to believe that the entire California business structure would collapse with its passage.

Then there are Props. 208 and 212, both of which propose to limit campaign contributions and spending. For the life of me, I still can't tell the difference between Tweedle-Dee and Tweedle-Dum.

Props. 214 and 216 both state that they are for healthcare consumer protection. They look okay to me, but I am constantly hearing TV ads making them appear either ineffective or sinister plots to raise taxes to unbelievable levels.

One could go on and on, but the picture is clear. All too many of these propositions have been presented by individuals seeking to pull a fast one on the public by writing them in a most confusing fashion. Once on the ballot (often through skilled, professional signature gatherers), they are advertised pro or con in such a way as to further confuse the voter who seldom has the time or inclination to read the small print. And so we govern.

Most items on the proposition list should really be dealt with in the legislature by the people's representatives who supposedly know what they're about. To ask the public to decide such critical issues wisely, with the kind of deceptive million-dollar ad campaigns that surround them, is unfair and poor government as well.

Reel Thoughts

'Ghost and the Darkness' one scary film

Thanks to Paramount Pictures, I have a new film to add to my "best scary movies" list. "The Ghost and the Darkness" gives me the same frightening chills as the original "Frankenstein" and Steven Spielberg's classic "Jaws."

In "The Ghost and the Darkness" (a better title would be "Paws"), Michael Douglas plays Remington, a wild game hunter in Africa, and Val Kilmer co-stars as Lt. Colonel J.H. Patterson, a bridge-building engineer sent to Africa to build the final bridge over the Tsavo River. These two men join forces to find and destroy two powerful lions that have gone on a man-eating rampage, killing 130 people.

Both Douglas and Kilmer give impressive performances. This is Kilmer's most outstanding work since portraying the greatest Doc Holliday on film (in "Tombstone"), and Douglas shows surprising potential for the type of eccentric parts he has missed out on until now.

The extraordinary lions of "Ghost and the Darkness" appear too eerily calculating to be real. They seem to know what their hunters expect them to do; then do just the opposite; thus heightening the incredible suspense in this "edge-of-your-seat" film (which is based on a true story).

Acclaimed screenwriter William Goldman (Oscar-winner for "All the President's Men" and "Butch Cassidy and the Sundance Kid") wisely developed his screenplay on the actual



John Patterson (Val Kilmer) takes aim in "The Ghost and the Darkness."

facts of this unusual story. In the production notes, Goldman reports, "What the lions did was so remarkable, there was no need to embellish." Goldman's previously successful writing for films of fear and suspense include "Misery" (from Stephen King's best seller) and "The Marathon Man" starring Dustin Hoffman.

Also no stranger to this film genre, director Stephen Hopkins ("Predator 2," "Nightmare on Elm Street 5") achieves just the right pace of excitement and anticipation in "The Ghost and the Darkness."

This entertaining film receives

my highest recommendation for Halloween viewing. However, if you can't make it to the theater on October 31st, you will find similar thrills and chills from any of the following very scary videos: "Alien," "Cape Fear" (the 1962 version), "Cat People" (the 1942 version), "Dead Again," "Fatal Attraction," "Frankenstein" (the 1931 version), "Halloween," "Jaws," "King Kong" (the 1933 version), "Night of the Hunter," "Phantasm," "Play Misty for Me," "Psycho," "The Omen," "The Silence of the Lambs," "The Silent Partner," "The Uninvited," and "The Wolf Man."

Happy Halloween! May the fear be with you (And watch out for those lions.)

PG Perspectives

by Phillip Giannangeli

Who cares?

There are a lot of things I don't know. Even more that I don't understand. You say, "Who cares?" Well, if we stop at this point, today's column will be the shortest one in the history of Forum Publications. So, not wanting to make Forum history and perhaps, just perhaps, finding a way to entertain you some (I can assure you no enlightenment is going to come of today's effort), I'm going to go through some of the stuff I don't know or understand. Better than a chocolate sundae on a sweltering day, don't you think?

Come on. Give me a read. It's not going to be brain surgery or rocket science or anything like that. Although, come to think of it, brain surgery and rocket science do fit the category of things that are way too complicated for me to know or understand. Ah, but don't fret, I'll try to be less cerebral and more down to earth than that. And getting right down to earth, let's talk about the dew point.

I don't understand one thing about the dew point. Kids today haven't even heard of the dew point and I doubt anyone will ever try to teach them anything about it, but the dew point is out there. Many adults probably recognize the term, but I wonder how many of them really know what it is. I personally know that dew point has been around for a long time because I remember hearing it on the radio when I was a kid and although I'm pretty sure it has something to do with moisture and temperature, I'm not sure how or why. Should the dew point come up in a life or death struggle for me, I'm certain that would be the end of this branch of the old family tree.

Another area that goes beyond my scope of understanding is the area of pills. I haven't figured out, after many hours of deep thought on the matter, how the same pill can take care of a headache, back pain, the common symptoms of a cold, arthritis, neuritis, neuralgia, and help to prevent a heart attack, too. How does this wonder pill know where to go and what to do? I can understand the concept of a magic bullet heading straight for a troubled area to work its wonders, but how in the world does this very common pill know what pathway to take, what misery to prevent?

At this point, you probably have some of your own "don't knows or don't understands." If so, send them to Forum Publications and let our crack team of research experts clear up the mysteries. If you're wondering why I don't follow that advice, it's simple. There's so much stuff I don't know or understand that the experts at Forum said they wouldn't know where to begin and most likely wouldn't have the time to undertake such a massive effort. Therefore they've decided they won't talk to me anymore. Can't even disguise my voice and get to them over the phone. But don't let that deter you from asking your questions. I'm sure they'll be friendly and helpful to you. In the meantime, let's go back to the exciting (and vast) topic of things Giannangeli doesn't understand.

I've always found it a wonder that there are people in this world who really understand all the rules of grammar for the English language. It's astonishing to say the least. One such grammarian is Frau Carleen Hemrick, a colleague of mine. Go to her with the most convoluted questions regarding tense, agreement, or correct usage and she'll astound you with the rapidity and correctness of her response. Among (or is it between?) the English teachers I've known, Carleen Hemrick has no peer (or is it doesn't have any peer?). She has to be on the main floor of the Grammarian Hall of Fame.

After all this brain exertion and the recounting of but a few of the huge number of things I know little about, I'm tired and I have a headache. I probably should take a pill (will it know where to go?), lay or lie down (Carleeni), and check the dew point so I'll know where to rest so I won't wake up wet. Not knowing a bunch of stuff can really put a damper on the things you can do.

Letters to the Editor

Sorry, David

With apologies to David Letterman, I would like to submit the "Top Ten Ways Bob Dole Can Revive His Presidential Campaign."

10. Avoid saying, "I'm happy to be in San Francisco," when addressing a crowd in San Diego.

9. Do not refer to your opponent as "Bozo" in any speech in which you are condemning name calling.

8. Accuse Clinton of bragging when the President insists on bringing up the economy, unemployment, deficit reduction, or falling crime rates.

7. Have Elizabeth trained as a ventriloquist and learn to lip sync.

6. Read the Sports page...the Dodger's haven't been in Brooklyn since 1957!

5. Make sure your first wife is not around when you talk about how you always keep promises.

4. Do NOT attempt to capture the youth vote by dancing the Charleston. It is no longer "the cat's pajamas."

3. On-screen digital display of vital signs (heart rate, blood pressure) will put questions about health and age to rest once and for all.

2. Recruit Rush Limbaugh to stand below speaker's platforms to insure soft landings.

1. Avoid repetition. Avoid repetition. Avoid repetition.

VIRGINIA KING
Jamul

Can you spell "hypocrite?"

Republican Presidential Candidate Bob Dole, once a rabid anti-supply sider, is now embracing his running mate Jack Kemp's supply-side economics, while Kemp, recently pro-affirmative action and avidly anti-Proposition 187, now embraces the anti-affirmative action, anti-immigrant position of the Dole campaign.

Clinton, who has been assailed as flip-flopping on issues, looks like the Rock of Gibraltar compared to Dole and Kemp. It is obvious that Dole and Kemp reversed their positions for reasons of political expediency.

Maybe the Republicans should re-think their strategy of making Bill Clinton's "character" a campaign issue.

Or, as my grandmother used to say, "People who live in glass houses shouldn't throw stones."

BOB WALLACE
Alpine

**OK, really next week:
Everything You Ever Really Wanted to
Know about Local Candidates and Ballot
Propositions**

Things to Do!

Halloween parties, concerts abound

Costume craziness

The Lemon Grove Chamber of Commerce is sponsoring the October Sundowner & Costume Contest from 5:30 - 7:30 p.m. Oct. 31 at 3135 Lemon Grove Ave.

A \$25 cash prize will be awarded for the best costume. The event, co-hosted by Top Hat Catering Service and Letter-Kraft Printing, is open to the public. Reservations may be made through tomorrow by calling Troy at the Chamber office, 469-9621.

Hallelujah Night

A family-oriented Halloween event is planned for the community from 5 - 8 p.m. Oct. 31 at Skyline Wesleyan Church, 1345 Skyline Dr.

There will be a costume contest, marshmallow roast, music, food, games and rides for all. Bring your friends to enjoy a fun-filled and safe Halloween celebration.

This is an all church event and an opportunity to visit the old and well-respected church in Lemon Grove. Famous for its Living

Christmas Tree productions at year's end, the church can always be depended upon to provide a high-class function.

There will be a \$2 charge per person. This event is especially focused on the youth, and a good time is guaranteed. For more information, call 460-5000.

Spooktacular Faire

Once again, the Santee Chamber of Commerce is hosting a giant Craft Faire this weekend, from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday and Sunday at the Santee Trolley Center, located at Cuyamaca Street and Mission Gorge Road.

Crafters will be showing beautifully handcrafted items such as decorative home accessories, jewelry and wearable art and wonderful holiday items for Halloween, autumn, Thanksgiving and Christmas. Michael's Arts & Crafts will be giving craft demonstrations at its booth.

In addition to the Craft Faire, merchants all over town are holding sales in what the Santee Chamber calls the "Spooktacular." Price Rite Pharmacy is featuring a Health Fair tomorrow and Home Depot will host a Child Awareness Day on Saturday. Wal-Mart's having a Children's Costume Parade Sunday morning.

Try the Haunted House at Kmart's through the weekend. Come to the Dunk Tank near HomeTown Buffet and dunk your favorite (or unfavorite) politician. There's safe Trick-or-Treating in the Longs Drug area of Santee Town Center.

So plan on following the orange and black balloons around town this weekend, and pick up a schedule of events to see what and where everything is! It is definitely a weekend of events that's so big, it's scary!

Cellist In Concert

Welsh cellist Kathryn Rhian Price will present a concert of music for violoncello and piano at 7 p.m. on Sunday. The performance is part of the San Carlos Concert Series, hosted by San Carlos United Methodist Church, 6554 Cowles Mountain Blvd. (corner of Cowles Mountain and Navajo Road).

Returning to San Diego from her native Cardiff, Price will present works by Brahms, Bloch, Shostakovich and Beethoven. Accompanying her will be American pianist Douglas Ashcraft.

The concert is open to the public and child care will be provided. A freewill offering will be received. For more information,

call 464-4331.

Finnish music at UUF

"Spirits of the Past and Future," a program of Finnish music, will be presented by Merja Soria at 10 a.m. on Sunday at the Summit Unitarian-Universalist Fellowship service.

The Fellowship meets in the Masonic Lodge at 7849 Tommy Dr. in the San Carlos area and the public is invited to share this uplifting musical experience.

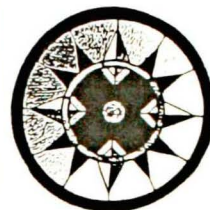
Soria is a native of Finland and was chosen Performer of the Year 1995-96 by the Finlandia Foundation. She teaches traditional Finnish music at San Diego

State University and the University of San Diego in addition to performing an extensive concert schedule.

As a folk singer, she is able to present both ancient Finnish music and to project a glimpse of a global future.

She is a virtuoso accordionist and accomplished performer on a number of instruments, including the kantele (a Finnish instrument similar to a psaltery), and can interpret the lively and spirited Finnish musical tradition.

This program is open to the public without charge. For more information, call Ed Henry at 460-4794.



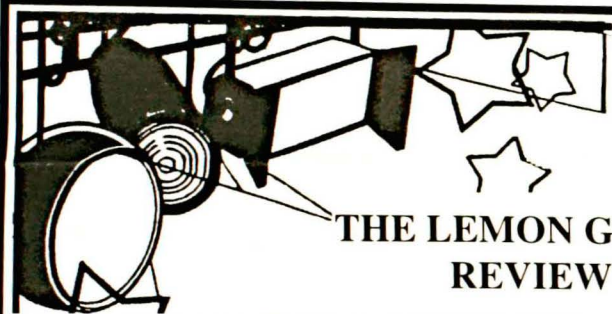
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PUBLIC NOTICES

NOTICE OF VEHICLE LIEN SALE

The following vehicles will be sold at 10:00 a.m. on November 5, 1996. The sale will take place at 850 D Energy Way, Chula Vista, CA 91911.

1. 208373
TROPACAL CA
82 FORD F150 PK
1FTDF150CRA02499
2. 605353
518NSK3 MX
79 FORD ECONOLIN VAN
1FTDE145FHA59031
3. 610232
NONE
95 TOYT TERCEL 2D
JT2EL55D9S0081176
4. 610729
2GWW454 CA
88 SUZUKI SAMARI CV
J53JC51C1J4208241
5. 610874
2HLU192 CA
88 FORD TEMPO 4D
1FAPP36X1JK162747
6. 610930
3JNT476 CA
90 CHEV CAMARO CV
1G1FP33ELL112948

A to Z Metro Towing

Lemon Grove Review
October 24, 1996

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

Assigned File No 96015756
The Name of the Business:
VIDEO TIME
located at: 8081 Broadway in
Lemon Grove CA 91945 is hereby
registered by the following owner:

DAVID L. KESNER
3648 BIRDIE DRIVE
LA MESA, CA 91941
ANNE KESNER
3648 BIRDIE DRIVE
LA MESA, CA 91941

This business is conducted by
Individuals - Husband and Wife
The transaction of business
began on: N/A

Signature of Registrant:
DAVID L. KESNER
This statement was filed with Gregory J. Smith the Recorder/County Clerk of San Diego County on
SEP 23 1996
Lemon Grove Review
Oct. 3, 10, 17 & 24, 1996

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

Assigned File No 96015983
The Name of the Business:
FUSION MEDIA
located at: 4747 Morena Blvd.,
#302 in San Diego, CA
92117 is hereby registered by the
following owner:

FOUR STAR SOFTWARE INC.
CALIFORNIA

This business is conducted by:
A corporation

The transaction of business
began on: March 9, 1992

Signature of Registrant:
MARK FREEDMAN,
PRESIDENT

This statement was filed with Gregory J. Smith the Recorder/County Clerk of San Diego County on
SEP 24 1996
Lemon Grove Review
Oct. 3, 10, 17 & 24, 1996

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

Assigned File No 96016083
The Name of the Business:
AMERICAN MAID
HOMEKLEANER
located at: 2515 Glebe Rd., #B in
Lemon Grove CA 91945 is hereby
registered by the following owner:

LINDA L. BRATH
2515 GLEBE RD. #B
LEMON GROVE 91945

This business is conducted by:
an Individual

The transaction of business
began on: September 11, 1996

Signature of Registrant:
LINDA L. BRATH

This statement was filed with Gregory J. Smith the Recorder/County Clerk of San Diego County on
SEP 25 1996
Lemon Grove Review

Oct. 3, 10, 17 & 24, 1996

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

Assigned File No 96015736
The Name of the Business:
MC CONNELL'S
located at: 7207 Blackton Dr in
La Mesa 91941 is hereby registered
by the following owners:

DEREK MCCONNELL
7207 BLACKTON DR.
LA MESA, CA 91941
DANA MCCONNELL
7207 BLACKTON DR.
LA MESA, CA 91941

This business is conducted by
Individuals - Husband and Wife
The transaction of business
began on: N/A

Signature of Registrant:
DEREK MCCONNELL

This statement was filed with Gregory J. Smith the Recorder/County Clerk of San Diego County on
SEP 20 1996
Lemon Grove Review
Oct. 3, 10, 17 & 24, 1996

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

Assigned File No 96015822
The Name of the Business:
AZTEC WINDOW CLEANING
located at: 7077 Saranac St. in
San Diego 92115 is hereby registered
by the following owner:

JOSHUA F. COURTRIGHT
7077 SARANAC ST.
SAN DIEGO 92115

This business is conducted by
an Individual

The transaction of business
began on: 9/23/96

Signature of Registrant:
JOSHUA F. COURTRIGHT

This statement was filed with Gregory J. Smith the Recorder/County Clerk of San Diego County on
SEP 23 1996
Lemon Grove Review
Oct. 3, 10, 17 & 24, 1996

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

Assigned File No 96014956
The Name of the Business:
JIM'S MOBILE AUTO SERVICE
located at: 9204 Todos Santos Dr in
Santee, CA 92071 is hereby
registered by the following owner:

JAMES P. OGDEN
9204 TODOS SANTOS DR.
SANTEE, CA 92071

This business is conducted by
an Individual

The transaction of business
began on: 1-1-96

Signature of Registrant:
JAMES P. OGDEN

This statement was filed with Gregory J. Smith the Recorder/County Clerk of San Diego County on
SEP 10 1996
Lemon Grove Review
Oct. 3, 10, 17 & 24, 1996

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

Assigned File No 96014539
The Name of the Business:
REBECCA'S SOUTHWEST
ARTISTRY
located at: 4136 Vista Grande Dr in
San Diego, CA 92115 is hereby
registered by the following owner:

REBECCA S. ROJAS
4136 VISTA GRANDE DR.
SAN DIEGO, CA 92115

This business is conducted by
an Individual

The transaction of business
began on: 9/3/96

Signature of Registrant:
REBECCA S. ROJAS

This statement was filed with Gregory J. Smith the Recorder/County Clerk of San Diego County on
SEP 03 1996
Lemon Grove Review
Oct. 3, 10, 17 & 24, 1996

NOTICE OF PETITION TO ADMINISTER ESTATE OF SUSAN ELIZABETH HENDERSON CASE NO. P168651

To all heirs, beneficiaries, creditors, contingent creditors, and persons who may be otherwise interested in the will or estate of both of SUSAN ELIZABETH HENDERSON

A PETITION has been filed by MARY BORDERS in the Superior Court of California, County of San Diego

THE PETITION requests that MARY BORDERS be appointed as personal representative to administer the estate of the decedent

THE PETITION requests the decedent's WILL and codicils, if any, be admitted to probate. The will and any codicils are available for examination in the file kept by the court

THE PETITION requests authority to administer the estate under the Independent Administration of Estates Act. (This authority will allow the personal representative to take many actions without obtaining court approval. Before taking certain very important actions, however, the personal representative will be required to give notice to interested persons unless they have waived notice or consented to the proposed action.) The independent administration authority will be granted unless an interested person files an objection to the petition and shows good cause why the court should not grant the authority

A HEARING on the petition will be held on OCT 28, 1996 at 1:45 p.m. in Dept. 35, located at 220 W. BROADWAY, SAN DIEGO, CA 92101

IF YOU OBJECT to the granting of the petition, you should appear at the hearing and state your objections or file written objections with the court before the hearing. Your appearance may be in person or by your attorney.

IF YOU ARE A CREDITOR or a contingent creditor of the decedent, you must file your claim with the court and mail a copy to the personal representative appointed by the court within four months from the date of first issuance of letters as provided in section 9100 of the California Probate Code. The time for filing claims will not expire before four months from the hearing date noticed above

YOU MAY EXAMINE the file kept by the court. If you are a person interested in the estate, you may file with the court a formal Request for Special Notice of the filing of an inventory and appraisal of estate assets or of any petition or account as provided in section 1250 of the California Probate Code. A Request for Special Notice form is available from the court clerk

Attorney for Petitioner:
CHARLES SCOTT
BARWICK, RUTHERFORD & SCOTT
3434 GROVE STREET
LEMON GROVE, CA 91945

Lemon Grove Review
October 10, 17 & 24, 1996

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

Assigned File No 96016423
The Name of the Business:
D & D REPORTING SERVICE
located at: 5575 Baltimore Drive
#105-201 in La Mesa, CA 91942 is
hereby registered by the following owner:

DIANE MARIE DOSTALIK-
NAGBY
2164 ROLDADO PL.
EL CAJON, CA 92020

This business is conducted by
an Individual

The transaction of business
began on: 9-23-96

Signature of Registrant:

DIANE M. DOSTALIK
This statement was filed with Gregory J. Smith the Recorder/County Clerk of San Diego County on
SEP 30 1996
Lemon Grove Review
Oct. 10, 17, 24 & 31, 1996

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

Assigned File No 96016641
The Name of the Business:
VIEWPOINT PHOTOGRAPHY
located at: 5845 Friars Rd. #1412
in San Diego, CA 92110-6005 is
hereby registered by the following owner:

VALERIE RAE WIXEN
5845 FRIARS RD. #1412
SAN DIEGO 92110-6005

This business is conducted by:
an Individual

The transaction of business began on: N/A

Signature of Registrant:
VALERIE RAE WIXEN

This statement was filed with Gregory J. Smith the Recorder/County Clerk of San Diego County on
OCT 10 1996
Lemon Grove Review
Oct. 10, 17, 24 & 31, 1996

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

Assigned File No 96015813
The Name of the Business:
UNIQUE ELECTRONICS
located at: 3885 Riviera Dr. #B
in San Diego, CA 92109 is hereby
registered by the following owner:

SHELBY JOEL BISTROW
3885 RIVIERA AVE. #B
SAN DIEGO, CA 92109

This business is conducted by
an Individual

The transaction of business
began on: N/A

Signature of Registrant:
SHELBY JOEL BISTROW

This statement was filed with Gregory J. Smith the Recorder/County Clerk of San Diego County on
SEP 23 1996
Lemon Grove Review
Oct. 10, 17, 24 & 31, 1996

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

Assigned File No 96017269
The Name of the Business:
MOTHERS HELPER CHILDREN'S
RESALE SHOP
located at: 4810 Santa Monica
Ave. in San Diego, CA 92107 is
hereby registered by the following owner:

MARYLOU DENNIS
8501 ROACH DR.
LA MESA, CA 91941

This business is conducted by
an Individual

The transaction of business
began on: 8/15/81

Signature of Registrant:
MARYLOU DENNIS

This statement was filed with Gregory J. Smith the Recorder/County Clerk of San Diego County on
OCT 08 1996
Lemon Grove Review
Oct. 17, 24, 31 & Nov. 7, 1996

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DEATH COMES STALKING

Continued from Page 1

searched for a missing horse. Shivering from the cool night air and shock I began walking towards the car.

The van was totalled. So was the horse. I returned to the retreat later that night grateful that my only rider had been a spirit. The front passenger side was demolished. The fire department and police (everyone that saw the van) said it was a miracle I'd walked away. I believe it.

CYNTHIA O'NEILL

One October evening in 1979, I piled into a car filled with friends and high hopes for a good party we were about to attend. We headed towards where the elite of Pacific Beach live, high in the hills overlooking the jewel-encrusted bay.

"We won't need to bring anything. I've been told that they've got everything there," said Victoria, whom I considered a friend, if only on her loony terms. She always had new-moon gatherings in which people would have levitating lessons. I'd always follow along with her for the fun and friends.

They did have everything there at the party. The food would have thrilled the gods: caviar and champagne, lobster bisque, beef Wellington, Welsh Rabbit, a humongous spread of fruits, cheeses and vegetables and a huge pan of cake-like brownies frosted with white roses of cream cheese.

Always a sucker for chocolate, I indulged in three brownies.

Sipping on some peach brandy, I smiled and made small talk, moving throughout the room. So mellow I felt. Like I had all the friends in the world. Victoria made hand motions for me to join her.

We started mirror-dancing. That's trippy to do even stone-cold sober, but the peach brandy was making me miss all my moves. All of a sudden, Victoria metamorphized into an Egyptian queen and I was her servant. The music, some disco pulsating thing, turned into a river of indigo and burgundy while huge feathers propelled our canoe down the river.

"Cyndi, you're trippin' really good," said my Egyptian queen/friend Victoria.

"I've never felt like this, why?"

While she gyrated to the beat, she blared two inches from my face, "How many of those brownies did you have?"

I tried to stop the canoe from flowing down the river by beating the feathers out of my face.

Things were rapidly deteriorating by then, for Victoria was starting to rot in the grave. Her face had nasty black holes with things swimming through it. Then, just as suddenly, she was all sweetness and light, dressed in white.

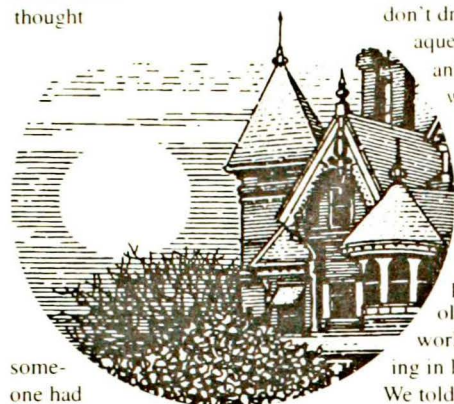
Victoria, the queen of darkness and light, talked gobbledy-gook and I lost all ability to swallow or shut my eyes. Completely panicked, I wandered the hall of the lost souls. I found my boyfriend and other people playing

Scrabble in a tiny room where I could not catch my breath.

My boyfriend heard me whimpering. He laughed. "You need to relax," he said, tickling me with another feather.

The house of the descending moon soon crashed down upon me, and I looked up into a myriad of ghouls' faces. I mouthed the words, "Help me!" and they laughed even more. You need to go with the flow, go with the flow, go with the flow...

Then I was transported to the back seat of a car with blankets around me. My teeth clattered so much that I thought



someone had started up the car.

Then someone dragged me up from that cocoon of warmth and got me up and walking around the car. It's initiation night. I told myself. That's what it is. But I've already done this for high school.

"I can't breathe. I can't swallow. I can't stop shaking," I pleaded. My boyfriend dragged me around and around and around the car.

Later, somewhere between hell and eternity, I found myself in a hospital bed with an IV in my arm and angels at my side.

"It was hash, right? The brownies," I whispered to the older angel.

"Hash, maybe. But that's not what gave you the hallucinations. You've had your first taste of acid," she said. "Could have been in what you were drinking, who knows? You're lucky you made it here!"

I shivered back down under the sheets that hurt my skin. Hhhmmmmpph. I couldn't believe that I'd tripped because of some friends.

After that lovely October evening, I slowly rid myself of all my 'friends'.

These days the friends I have don't make me take levitating lessons. And any brownies I eat either my mother or I myself make. Double chocolate chip, light on the walnuts.

STEVEN SAINT

The Middle East was indeed half a world away. College was over and I figured it was time to see the world and plot my writing career from a more experienced vantage point. Who can really live in the First World without having tramped the dust and washed in the water of the Third?

I was half a world away, yet I'd come to a familiar place. Jerusalem. So much history, so many souls. King David. Pontius Pilate. The stones on which Jesus

tread, carrying his cross, only 200 meters beneath the narrow, Old City streets where I walked.

I met this American guy who was making a living giving tours to pastors and church groups. He knew the Holy Land from right to left and one day gave me a tip on a little adventure. *Take the Arab bus towards Jericho. At the Good Samaritan Inn ("I kid you not," he said), get off and walk due north past the motel. Find the lake and follow the aqueduct through the Wadi Kilt.* It would lead me straight down to Jericho in 3-4 hours.

"Take water," he said. "But don't drink from the lake or the aqueduct. Sheep and other animals take liberties with them."

My brother, Shannon, and I got the bus in East Jerusalem and headed down from the Mount of Olives towards the desert plain. Jericho... the oldest city in the known world. We would go walking in like Joshua.

We told the bus driver to let us off at the Good Samaritan Inn. He nodded his head vigorously and smiled with lots of bad teeth. But a good hour past the Israeli checkpoint and we were still bouncing along. Finally, we saw a brown, sprawling settlement and he announced we were in Jericho.

At the station, we asked directions to the aqueduct and started making our way westward, taking our adventure backwards.

We did not know it, but Death followed us, scaling the gentle slope of the wadi, just out of view beyond my left shoulder.

The hiking was fine all the way to a monastery located in the middle of the canyon. Named for the place where Satan is said to have tempted Christ, the monastery was inhabited by Greek Orthodox monks. None of them were under 70 years of age and no one spoke English. But they were friendly and showed us

how to continue following the aqueduct to the west.

The sun was setting when we reached the place where the aqueduct crosses the wadi. A canoe-shaped trench stretched across the gorge some 70 feet from the bottom, supported by a single concrete column. We had to inch across the trench on all fours, our feet slipping on the narrow rims.

At the far end of the crossing, we could stand on an outcropping of rock. Water cascaded down into the trench from some unseen point above us. Night had come.

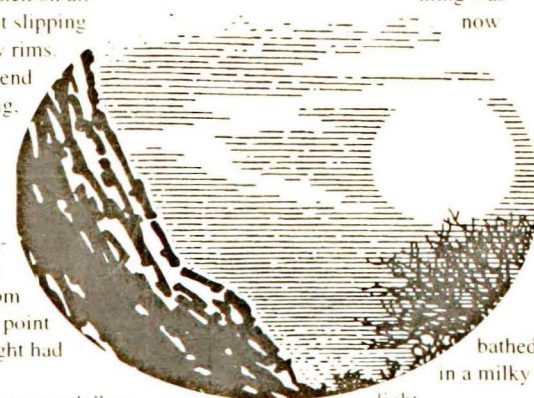
"I think I see a path," my brother said as he began scaling the waterfall. I tried to follow, slipping on wet bricks and trying not to look back at the trench across the canyon. I heard Shannon calling to me but I couldn't see him. I could only feel my way through a patch of brambles.

Suddenly, a torch of pain seared through my leg and I cried out. I had come to a flat place but had run my leg against a cactus with three-inch spikes. One was lodged in the side of my knee.

I stiffened. I shot a glance over my left shoulder and realized my death was breathing hard against my neck, just out of view. Like a child, I started to cry. This was it. I'd come all this way just to be consumed by the wilderness.

I cried out to God. *Abba!*

Suddenly, my head turned upwards. With new clarity, I saw a branch within reach of my right hand. Grasping it, I pulled myself upward and my head emerged from the top of the bramble. A full moon was rising over the mountains and everything was now



Shannon appeared and helped me get loose from the thicket. I was limping, but I could walk. My brother helped me. The aqueduct lay out before us like a silver cord, running straight along the north rim of the wadi.

We walked for hours, passing small, dark settlements with tiny fires and dogs baying at us. Finally, we came to the Jericho highway, still hot from the day's beating by the sun. Against all odds, a car stopped to pick us up.

Eventually I returned to San Diego, but something had changed. Death followed me here, but I'm no longer afraid of him. In fact, I consider him my friend. Death has taught me how precious life is.

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